

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /036 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:HKWALKER:JW

APPROVED BY AF/W:JLLOUGHRAN

E:RMORRIS

EB/OSB:DBRAMANTE

AF:NDAVIS

S/S:LCJOHNSTONE

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R 250919Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122326

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-NIGERIA BILATERAL COMMISSION

FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS

1. AS YOU KNOW, THE SECRETARY HAS INSTRUCTED AF TO EXPLORE WITH THE FMG IN A LOW KEY WAY NIGERIA'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING BILATERAL COMMISSION. REQUEST YOU INFORMALLY RAISE SUBJECT DURING YOUR FORTHCOMING INITIAL CALLS ON SENIOR NIGERIAN OFFICIALS AND IN OTHER APPROPRIATE CONTACTS.

2. APPROACH SHOULD BE ONE OF ALTOGETHER TENTATIVE, INFORMAL EXPLORATION WITHOUT ANY INDICATION THAT USG HAS GIVEN MATTER OTHER THAN INITIAL CONSIDERATION PENDING NIGERIAN REACTION. GOAL, AS IN OTHER COMMISSIONS, WOULD BE TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES AND COOPERATION IN AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WITH COUNTRY OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO USG. IN ACCORDANCE WITH NIGERIA'S OWN PRIORITIES, WE IMAGINE BILATERAL COMMISSION WOULD FOCUS GREATER EMPHASIS ON TRADE
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AND INVESTMENT OF KIND FMG WANTS AND ON FACILITATING

REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THERE COULD, IN
ADDITION, BE SUBGROUPS--AD HOC OR MORE FORMAL-- COVERING
OTHER PARTICULAR AREAS OF COOPERATION THAT NIGERIANS MAY

WISH--E.G., EDUCATION AND CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
AGRICULTURE.

3. DEPARTMENT POUCHING THIS WEEKEND MATERIALS ON
COMMISSIONS INCLUDING NISDM 278 WHICH SPELL OUT
COMMISSIONS' ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION ELSEWHERE. THESE
DOCUMENTS FYI AND NOT INTENDED FOR DETAILED DISCUSSION
WITH FMG OF BILATERAL COMMISSION IDEA AT THIS TIME.
DEPARTMENT AWAITS EMBASSY'S REPORT OF FMG'S INITIAL
REACTION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE122326
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HKWALKER:JW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750184-0063
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750518/aaaaaqaq.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S.-NIGERIA BILATERAL COMMISSION FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS
TAGS: PFOR, NI, US
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006